

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A color image processing system for outputting a color image from an output unit connected via a network, said  
5 color image processing system comprising:

a color proof generation section for performing color conversion processing for an original data so that a color, when the output unit specified by an instruction information specifying the output unit produces an output based on the  
10 original data, becomes a target color; and

a communication section for transferring the original data undergoing the color conversion processing to the output unit specified by the instruction information via the network.

15 2. The color image processing system according to claim 1 wherein said color proof generation section expands the original data undergoing the color conversion processing into a raster data; and

said communication section transfers the raster data  
20 provided by said color proof generation section to the output unit specified by the instruction information.

3. The color image processing system according to claim 1 wherein the network is the Internet.

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4. The color image processing system according to claim 1 further comprising an instruction section for inputting the instruction information.

5 5. The color image processing system according to claim 1 wherein said communication section receives the original data and the instruction information from an external system and transfers the original data undergoing the color conversion processing in accordance with the instruction  
10 information; and

said color proof generation section performs color conversion processing for the original data received at said communication section so as to conduct precise color reproduction on the corresponding output unit in accordance  
15 with the instruction information received at said communication section.

6. The color image processing system according to claim 5 wherein said color proof generation section expands  
20 the original data undergoing the color conversion processing into raster data; and

said communication section transfers the raster data provided by said color proof generation section in accordance with the instruction information.

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7. The color image processing system according to claim 1 wherein said color proof generation section stores a color conversion information set so that the color, when each output unit produces the output based on the original data, becomes the target color in a one-to-one correspondence with the output units, and performs color conversion processing for the original data using the color conversion information corresponding to the instruction information.

10 8. The color image processing system according to claim 7 wherein the instruction information including information specifying the output unit and information specifying the target color; and

15 said color proof generation section stores the plurality of color conversion information in a one-to-one correspondence with the output units and the plurality of target colors, and performs color conversion processing for the original data using the color conversion information corresponding to the information specifying the output unit and the information specifying the target color.

25 9. The color image processing system according to claim 7 wherein the instruction information including the information specifying the output unit and an information indicating a color conversion accuracy rank; and

said color proof generation section stores the color conversion information at the plurality of ranks corresponding to the color conversion accuracy in a one-to-one correspondence with the output units and performs color conversion processing for the original data using the color conversion information corresponding to the information specifying the output unit and the information indicating the color conversion accuracy rank.

10           10.   The color image processing system according to claim 1 wherein said color proof generation section executes calibration at color conversion time based on a color sample output on the output unit.

15           11.   The color image processing system according to claim 1 wherein the output unit has a function of transmitting a calibration information indicating color reproduction change with time; and

20           said color proof generation section acquires the calibration information from the output unit via the network through said communication section and executes calibration at color conversion time based on the acquired calibration information.

25           12.   The color image processing system according to

claim 1 wherein the output unit has a function of transmitting a color conversion information set so that the color, when the output unit produces an output based on the original data, becomes the target color; and

5        said color proof generation section receives the color conversion information transmitted from the output unit via the network through said communication section after the original data undergoing the color conversion processing is sent and determines whether or not the color conversion  
10 information for the sent original data undergoing the color conversion processing is adequate, and outputs the determination result.

13.    The color image processing system according to  
15 claim 1 wherein said color proof generation section receives a calibration information indicating color reproduction change with time from the output unit and manages color reproducibility of the output unit based on the calibration information.

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14.    The color image processing system according to claim 13 wherein said color proof generation section stores a color conversion information set so that the color, when each output unit produces the output based on the original data,  
25 becomes the target color in a one-to-one correspondence with

output units, and performs color conversion processing for the original data using the color conversion information corresponding to the instruction information, and if necessary, corrects the color the conversion information based on the calibration information received from the output unit.

15. The color image processing system according to claim 13 wherein said color proof generation section warns the output unit when the calibration is not conducted during a predetermined time period in the output unit.

16. The color image processing system according to claim 13 wherein said color proof generation section analyzes the calibration information received from the output unit and warns the output unit if the color reproducibility of the output unit is out of a predetermined criterion.

17. The color image processing system according to claim 1 wherein said color proof generation section stores a color conversion information set so that the color, when each output unit produces the output based on the original data, becomes the target color in a one-to-one correspondence with output units, and performs color conversion processing for the original data using the color conversion information corresponding to the instruction information, and corrects the

color conversion information corresponding to the output unit  
based on a color measurement sample output from the output unit.

18. The color image processing system according to  
5 claim 17 wherein said color proof generation section warns the  
output unit when the color conversion information correction  
processing using the color measurement sample for the output  
unit is not executed during a predetermined time period.

10 19. The color image processing system according to  
claim 17 wherein if it is determined from the color measurement  
sample that the color reproducibility of the output unit  
outputting the color measurement sample is out of a  
predetermined criterion, said color proof generation section  
15 warns the output unit.

20. The color image processing system according to  
claim 17 wherein the color measurement sample includes a  
plurality of ranks.

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21. A color image processing system for outputting a  
color image from an output unit connected via a network, said  
color image processing system comprising:

a color proof generation section for expanding an  
25 original data into a raster data; and

a communication section for transferring the original data expanded into the raster data to the output unit specified by an instruction information specifying the output unit via the network.

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22. The color image processing system according to claim 1 wherein a fee is charged to a user for use of said color image processing system.

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23. The color image processing system according to claim 21 wherein a fee is charged to a user for use of said color image processing system.

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24. The color image processing system according to claim 10 wherein a fee is charged for the calibration at the color conversion time.

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25. The color image processing system according to claim 12 wherein a fee is charged for determining whether or not the color conversion information is adequate.

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26. A color image processing system wherein a plurality of processing systems are connected by a network and a similar color image is made available in any processing systems including an output unit;



at least one of the plurality of processing systems is  
used as a center; and

the center has a color proof generation section for  
performing color conversion processing responsive to the  
5 output unit in the processing system for outputting the color  
image for an original data on which the color image is based.

27. The color image processing system according to claim  
26 wherein the original data undergoing the color conversion  
10 processing is expanded into a raster data.

28. The color image processing system according to  
claim 26 wherein the processing system of a third party other  
than parties concerned involved in business is connected to  
15 the network; and

at least the processing system of the third party is used  
as the center.

29. A color image processing system wherein a  
20 plurality of processing systems are connected by a network and  
a similar color image is made available in any processing  
systems including an output unit, wherein

at least one of the plurality of processing systems is  
used as a center, and that

25 the center has a color proof generation section for

expanding an original data on which the color image is based into a raster data.

30. The color image processing system according to  
5 claim 29 wherein the processing system of a third party other than parties concerned involved in business is connected to the network; and

at least the processing system of the third party is used as the center.

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31. The color image processing system according to claim 26 wherein the user is charged for using the center.

32. A color image processing system comprising a  
15 client system and a center server being connected by a network, wherein said center server previously stores a color conversion information set so that a color, when each output unit installed in said client system produces an output based on an original data, becomes a target color in a one-to-one  
20 correspondence with output units, and receives the original data and an instruction information specifying the output unit, and performs color conversion processing for the original data using the color conversion information corresponding to the instruction information, and transfers the original data after  
25 undergoing the color conversion processing in accordance with

the instruction information.

33. A color image processing system comprising a client system and a center server being connected by a network,  
5 wherein said center server previously stores a color conversion information set so that a color, when each output unit installed in said client systems produces an output based on an original data, becomes a target color in a one-to-one correspondence with output units, and receives the original  
10 data and an instruction information specifying the output unit from said client system, and transfers the original data and the color conversion information corresponding to the instruction information in accordance with the instruction information; and  
15 said client system performs color conversion processing for the original data using the color conversion information transferred from said center server.

34. The color image processing system according to  
20 claim 32 wherein said center server stores the plurality of color conversion information in a one-to-one correspondence with the output units and the plurality of target colors, and receives an information specifying the target color as well as information specifying the output unit as the instruction  
25 information, and uses the color conversion information

corresponding to the information specifying the output unit  
and the information specifying the target color.

35. The color image processing system according to  
5 claim 33 wherein said center server stores the plurality of  
color conversion information in a one-to-one correspondence  
with the output units and the plurality of target colors, and  
receives an information specifying the target color as well  
as information specifying the output unit as the instruction  
10 information, and uses the color conversion information  
corresponding to the information specifying the output unit  
and the information specifying the target color.

36. The color image processing system according to  
15 claim 32 wherein said center server stores the color conversion  
information at a plurality of ranks corresponding to the color  
conversion accuracy in a one-to-one correspondence with the  
output units, and receives a rank information as well as an  
information specifying the output unit as the instruction  
20 information, and uses the color conversion information  
corresponding to the information specifying the output unit  
and the rank information.

37. The color image processing system according to  
25 claim 33 wherein said center server stores the color conversion

information at a plurality of ranks corresponding to the color conversion accuracy in a one-to-one correspondence with the output units, and receives a rank information as well as an information specifying the output unit as the instruction  
5 information, and uses the color conversion information corresponding to the information specifying the output unit and the rank information.

38. The color image processing system according to  
10 claim 32 wherein said center server receives an information indicating a destination to which the original data after undergoing the color conversion processing is transferred as the instruction information, and uses the color conversion information corresponding to the output unit specified as the  
15 transfer destination.

39. The color image processing system according to claim 33 wherein said center server receives an information indicating a destination to which the original data after  
20 undergoing the color conversion processing is transferred as the instruction information, and uses the color conversion information corresponding to the output unit specified as the transfer destination.

25 40. The color image processing system according to

claim 32 wherein said client system downloads the color  
conversion information from said center server in advance, and  
sends the color conversion information corresponding to the  
output unit in the instruction information to said center  
5 server; and

said center server uses the color conversion  
information in the instruction information to perform color  
conversion processing for the original data.

10 41. The color image processing system according to  
claim 32 wherein said center server further expands the  
received original data or the original data after undergoing  
the color conversion processing into a raster data, and  
transfers the raster data as the original data after undergoing  
15 the color conversion processing.

42. The color image processing system according to  
claim 33 wherein said center server further expands the  
received original data or the original data after undergoing  
20 the color conversion processing into a raster data, and  
transfers the raster data as the original data after undergoing  
the color conversion processing.

43. The color image processing system according to  
25 claim 32 wherein said center server charges for the color

conversion processing.

44. The color image processing system according to claim  
33 wherein said center server charges for the color conversion  
5 processing.

45. A color image processing system comprising a  
client system and a center server being connected by a network,  
wherein at least one of said client system comprises an output  
10 unit and has a calibration function for adjusting color  
reproducibility of the output unit; and

said center server performs color conversion processing  
for an original data sent from any of said client system based  
on a color conversion information preset for each output unit,  
15 and receives an information at calibration time from said  
client system comprising the output unit, and manages the color  
reproducibility of the output unit based on the information.

46. The color image processing system according to  
20 claim 45 wherein said center server corrects the color  
conversion information as required based on the information  
at the calibration time received from said client system.

47. The color image processing system according to  
25 claim 45 wherein said center server warns said client system

comprising the output unit when calibration is not conducted during a predetermined time period in the output unit.

48. The color image processing system according to claim 45 wherein said center server analyzes the information at the calibration time received from said client system, and warns said client system comprising the output unit if the color reproducibility of the output unit is out of a predetermined criterion.

49. A color image processing system comprising a client system and a center server being connected by a network, wherein at least one of said client system comprises an output unit and has a calibration function for adjusting color reproducibility of the output unit; and

said center server performs color conversion processing for an original data sent from any of said client system based on a color conversion information preset for each output unit, and corrects the color conversion information set for the output unit based on a color measurement sample output from the output unit.

50. The color image processing system according to claim 49 wherein said center server warns said client system comprising the output unit when the color conversion



information correction processing using the color measurement sample for the output unit is not executed during a predetermined time period.

5           51.   The color image processing system according to claim 49 wherein if it is determined from the color measurement sample that the color reproducibility of the output unit outputting the color measurement sample is out of a predetermined criterion, said center server warns said client  
10   system comprising the output unit.

          52.   The color image processing system according to claim 49 wherein said center server returns a color management status of the output unit to said client system in response  
15   to inquiry sent from said client system.

          53.   The color image processing system according to claim 45 wherein said center server charges for managing the color reproducibility.  
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          54.   The color image processing system according to claim 49 wherein said center server charges for correcting the color conversion information.